

Remarks

A telephone interview between the Applicants (through its representative Glenn M. Massina) and the Examiner was conducted on March 4, 2005. During the interview, the Applicants and the Examiner discussed references including U.S. Patent Nos. 6,551,082 and 4,452,575. In particular, the Examiner confirmed that by citing a new reference in the rejection of claim 1 in the Office action mailed on December 13, 2004, the finality of the December Office action has been vacated, and the status of the December Office action has been changed to a non-final rejection. The Applicants thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview.

As indicated in the present Office action dated March 29, 2005, claims 1-7 are pending in the present application and claims 4 and 5 are allowed. With respect to this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 7 are amended, leaving claims 2 and 4-6 unchanged. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 4 and 5 and submit claims 1-3, 6 and 7 for further consideration.

With respect to the present Amendment, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the present Office action, claim 3 is now in allowable form and the objection to the claim should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 4,452,575 (“Schibbye”) in view of Japanese Publication Number JP 62-04599 (“Anretsuto”).

With respect to amended claim 1, the amended claim recites a two-stage screw compressor having two compressor stages that are parallel with respect to one another, as well as two rotor housings, a coolant housing surrounding the rotor housings and is configured to have at least one guide wall and a coolant flow path, where the coolant flow path allows a coolant to flow such that coolant passes around both rotor housings and cools both rotor housings, as well as additional elements. None of the references cited teach or fairly suggest a two-stage compressor as recited in amended claim 1.

As mentioned in the present Office action, Schibbye fails to disclose a coolant housing enclosing both of the rotor housings. Furthermore, Anretsuto does not teach or fairly suggest a compressor having a coolant housing that includes a guide wall that at least partially defines a coolant path. The compressor of Anretsuto includes a cooling box having a supply pipe and a drain pipe. The cooling box is prepared in such a manner that a cooling water level is above all the blowers and flexible hoses. The cooling box of Anretsuto does not include a guide wall to facilitate a flow path. In fact, the cooling water of Anretsuto is supplied to the cooling box through a supply pipe at the top of the box and is free to flow around all of the blowers simultaneously. Additionally, the supply pipe and drain pipe are arranged in such a way that would allow the water to enter and exit the cooling box without circulating past any of the blowers.

As stated above, Schibbye, Anretsuto, the combination of the two and the additional cited references do not teach or fairly suggest a two-stage compressor as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, amended claim 1 includes allowable subject matter, and the rejection of the claim should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 6 depend from amended claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons as amended claim 1, as well as other reasons which, for the sake of brevity, are not discussed.

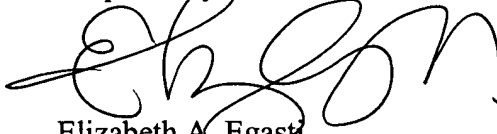
With respect to amended claim 7, the amended claim recites a two-stage screw compressor having two rotor housings and that is surrounded by a coolant housing having a coolant inlet, a coolant outlet, and at least one guide wall designed such that the coolant passes around and cools two rotor housings, and wherein the coolant housing includes four connections including a first compressor stage inlet, a first compressor stage outlet, a second compressor stage inlet and a second compressor state outlet, one connection being located on each side of the coolant housing, as well as additional elements. None of the references cited teach or fairly suggest a two-stage compressor as recited in amended claim 7.

As stated previously, the compressor of Schibbye fails to teach or fairly suggest a coolant housing enclosing both of the rotor housings, and the cooling box of Anretsuto does not include a guide wall to facilitate a flow path. Additionally, Anretsuto does not teach or fairly suggest a compressor including four connections, with one connection located on each side of the coolant

housing. Rather, Anretsuto only teaches a cooling box having one opening located on a first side of the cooling box and connected to an inlet port of the blower and another opening located on a second side of the cooling box and connected to an outlet port of the blower. Any remaining connections between stages and blowers remain concealed by the cooling box. See Figures 1-7 of Anretsuto. Accordingly, amended claim 7 includes allowable subject matter, and the rejection of the claim should be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, the Applicants entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are respectfully requested. The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth A. Egast', written over the printed name.

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